(c) whether Government would revise its policy to entrust unprotected monuments to such associations who can render financial and physical assistance towards rejuvenating the unprotected monuments to save them from near extinction?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No proposal has been received by Archaeological Survey of India from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry showing their interest for beautification and upkeep of Safdarjung Tomb.

(b) and (c) Government have received proposals from corporate bodies for participation in the conservation of heritage monuments. Such proposals are considered under the guidelines of the National Culture Fund issued by the Ministry of Culture.

Guidelines on heritage sites

4024. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of formalising the guidelines on heritage sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether views of the State Governments have been elicited on the inclusion of the various sites located in the respective States as the heritage sites; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Monuments/sites which are of historical, archaeological or artistic importance and which have been in existence for not less than 100 years are protected as monuments of national importance by the Central Government under the relevant provision of the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Such monuments and sites are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder.

(c) and (d) As per procedure, the objections/views of all interested parties including the State Government are considered before notifying various sites/monuments as of national importance under the Act.